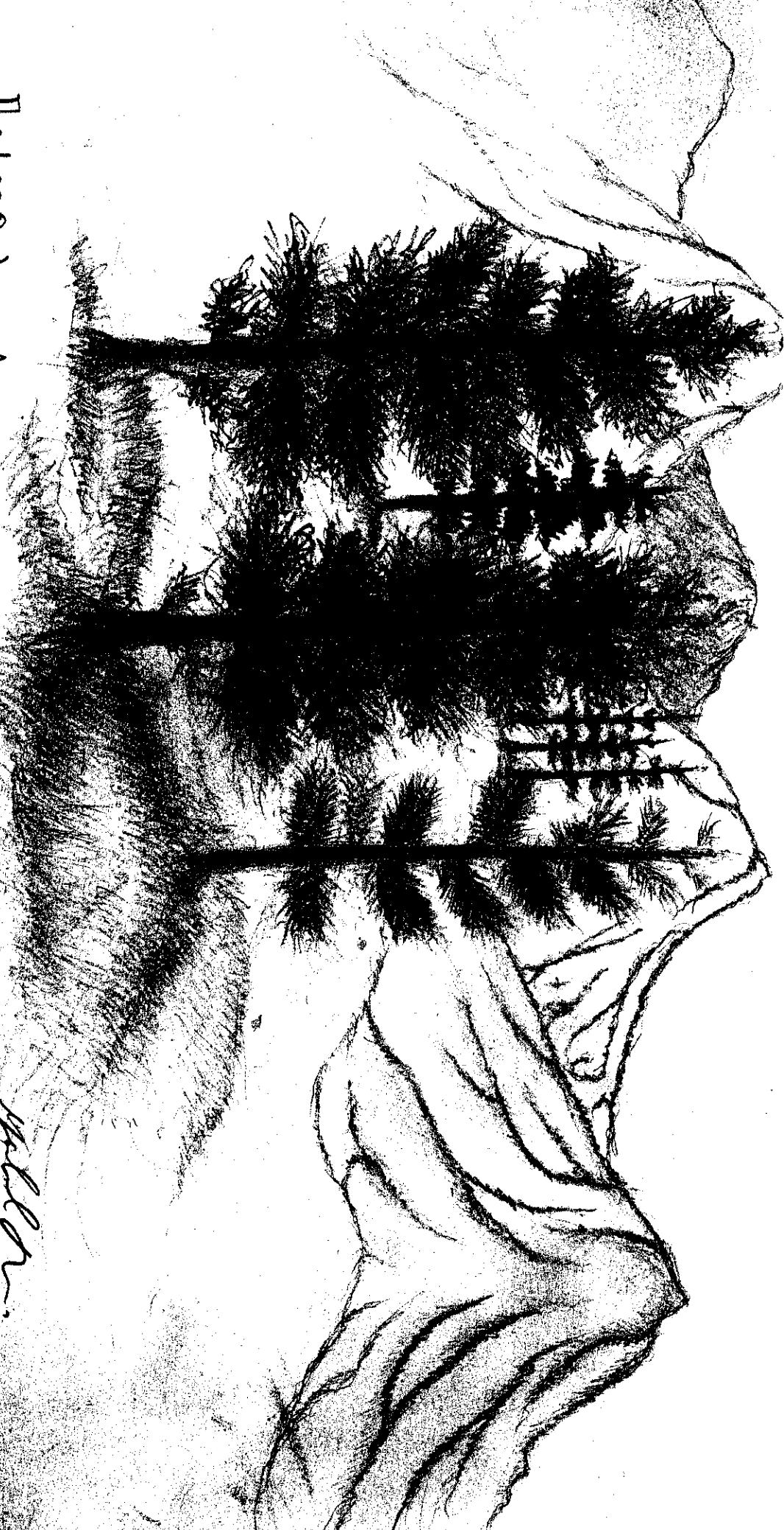


The Los Padres. A place of beauty that truly inspires me. My time here working and exploring this wilderness will never be forgotten. Enjoyed my time watching Sisquoc Falls. The work was tiresome, but it made every minute out here and I hope to one day return here - Gabriel Nuno



WHAT I LIKED ABOUT LOS PADRES ~~THE~~ THE
MOST WAS HOW ISOLATED THE BACKCOUNTRY IS. I
LOVED THE FACT THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE COME OUT
HERE TO CAMP. YOU TEND TO COME ACROSS THE MORE
EXPERIENCED & APPRECIATIVE BACKPACKERS WHO
UNDERSTAND THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING
WILDERNESS CLEAN AND NATURAL. OUT HERE YOU CAN
ENJOY THE BACKCOUNTRY AT ITS FULLEST AND
AS PEACEFUL AS POSSIBLE. WALKING THE HISTORICAL
TRAILS WAS AMAZING, I TRULY FELT CONNECTED WITH
NATURE WHILE I WAS OUT HERE. THIS PLACE IS RICH
WITH NATURAL BEAUTY. THE PEAKS (SAN RAFAEL & MCKENNEY)
WERE BREATH TAKING. THE CAMPSITES ~~WERE~~ WERE
COZY. OVERALL MY STAY AT LOS PADRES WAS SPECTACULAR.
I WILL DEFINATELY HAVE TO COME BACK TO VISIT
AGAIN. THERE IS STILL LOTS TO SEE OUT HERE. OH DAD
I ~~NEVER~~ ~~NEVER~~ MENTION? I SAW A GOOD SIZE BROWN
BEAR WHILE HIKING ON MISSION PINE TRAIL TOWARDS
MISSION PINE SPRINGS. ON THE TRAIL! IT GOT SPOOKED
WHEN I SAW IT FACE TO FACE. IT TOOK OFF RUNNING
IN A MATTER OF SECONDS. AMAZING EXPERIENCE IN
LOS PADRES.

D. J. Flory

6/1/n

my Los Padres experience

My time here in Los Padres has been incredible. I never think about the fact that I'm in California - I see / smell / hear more things out here that remind me of Yellowstone, the Tetons, and other wilderness areas I've seen in Colorado & Utah. This forest is beautiful and I feel so fortunate to get my introduction to trail work here and to have places like King Sisquoc & Rattlesnake Falls to visit on the weekends! I am honored to have been given this opportunity and thankful that I got to start off the season in such a beautiful place.

-Stacey Nathan
Inyo CCC crew 2011

First off, I want to thank you for this wonderful experience. It has been life changing for me. San Joaquin wilderness has taught me to appreciate nature a lot more. I came to this realization when I visited the Susquehanna Falls. I felt really connected & grateful for the beauty this earth holds. Walking on trails made me think about all the people that will come & see what I got to see. Los Padres is amazing.

I wish we could spend more time walking on trails in this wilderness because there was a lot I didn't get to see. I wanted to visit the Schoolhouse, but we didn't have enough time. I also couldn't visit Cattle Spring Falls. That was one of my goals just I couldn't fill. But even with that said, I saw a lot more than other folks will ever see.

Danny. Thanks!

Los Padres Experience - Inyo Backcountry Crew
Eric Kindig

The Padres will live forever in my heart as a proving ground. It has been a place where I proved to myself that not only could I survive in the wilderness, but could thrive as well. It's been special to dive into this experience face first with no one but sixteen strangers to make sure I land safely. I thank the ~~guerrilla~~ aura that surrounds the entire area, and know we were looked after by something bigger than us. No doubt, Los Padres cannot and will not be forgotten by myself in this lifetime!

Eric Kindig

6/2/2011

Los Padres National Forest
is an amazing + unique place. It
has been incredible spending the
past month living + working around
South Fork. Everyday I notice
something new whether it's a new
ridge, tree, bird, or a new aspect
of life in general. Things are
constantly unfolding out here +
I feel really really lucky to have had
the chance to experience it.
Thank you to Joe, Dave, Mark,
Rik, Agnes + everyone else that
helped make this happen!

Alex Kern

Dear Joe -

My past month in los Padres has been spectacular. I can hardly describe the kind of physical and mental transformation I have gone through. I understand that my Buck country career has only begun. I know that my transformation has too ~~has~~ only begun and the kind of change I am about to embark on, is probably something beyond my wildest dreams.

The los Padres is a, and will continue to be from now until forever, a magical place. its beauty never once became mundane or routine. The Hike to work song in my heart and whisper in my dreams. I still cannot believe that I had the opportunity to work in such an amazing place. The people that I have met along the way, Dave Weaver and Rick Christensen will forever be my heroes. I feel honored and beyond privileged to spend the kind of time I got to spend w/ those folks. I am so happy to learn from such amazing, experienced and humble men. Lessons I will carry w/ me throughout my life time. I am so glad I got to share meals and smile, laugh and sit around the campfire w/ such incredible people. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for this opportunity - it has and will continue to change my life. I have made friends I know I can rely on for the rest of my life here on this beautiful earth. Thank you.

Chelsea Marie Vidaurri

Our time spent in the San Rafael Wilderness Area
of Los Padres has been tough, primitive and demanding.
We all manage and succeeded in doing the work
asked of us. The mountain's to this pristine surrounding
are daunting and exhilarating. They were both a burden
and a blessing as we trudged through burnt out trails
and finally reached the ridge top where a grassy meadow
awised our arrival. Southfork offered us a sanctuary where
we could come lie our tired bodies and energize our mind
body and soul to tackle another day on the hills. The birds
gave us our wake up call and our legs were rigid and
stretched both in camp and out. The morning sun was always
a welcoming present to our tired eyes. and the
elements ~~offered our safety~~ of this vast acreage of land
nurture and comforts the mind as you ascend hills
and valleys. A steady flow from a natural spring to a
pool of noon breeze, the nature provides everything for man.
A simple life and a time well spent in the Los Padres will
be forever remembered. The night atop San Rafael Mountain looking
south to Santa Barbara and a deer sightings will be an image
I hope ~~that~~ is not long forgotten.

For Livity

Los Padres began my first backcountry season. Let me tell you, I couldn't of asked for a better National Forest then this one; Los Padres. My experience here has been so awesome. The hikes, the views, the trails, and the foundation of the land. Its all so very beautiful. I loved sleeping to the sounds of the wilderness, waking up at the crack of dawn and eating a spectacular breakfast. I liked the fact that we had a pot every morning that involved, stretching and exercising. The long hikes to and from work are probably my favorite times of work. Also, I love the fact that I get to jump in the rivers/creeks everyday and scrub with sand to complete my bathes, the water could be cold but that's just part of the wilderness. Dinner is my favorite part of the day next to breakfast. I think we eat so good out here and I really thank GOD for that everyday. Chores are a natural part of life or I should say living, its not my favorite part of the days, but I know its ~~necessary~~ necessary. Some of my favorite times in being back here is the weekend hikes. I got to see the beautiful, Sisquoc Waterfall. That was one of my weekends, one of my other weekends I got to do a 30 miles loop. I got to see a lot of the beautiful Los Padres sites. It has a whole lot to offer. Now, its kind of sad that the Los Padres is coming to an end but that's ok; because everything it showed me is a memory I'll keep for ever. It is now time to expand my horizons and move to the Inyo-National Forest.

Sincerely,
David Reiter
Inyo 2011 Backcountry Crew.

Dear Joe,

The past month in the Padres has been soul quenching. The fresh air, beautiful surroundings and ~~friendly faces~~ amazing hikes has ~~been~~ made everyday unforgettable. I have learned so much about myself in just the past month and love the challenges I'm faced with everyday. This experience hasn't been like any other and am so grateful for the BC program, and sponsors and forest rangers for dedicating their time and knowledge. I continue to learn ~~looking~~ and growth and grow spiritually, mentally and physically. The hardest challenge so far was hiking 30 miles over Memorial weekend to San Rafael Mountain. I never thought that I would make it but continued to push myself. It was rewarding once I

My experiences in the Los Padres have been exciting
~~got~~ all the way to the ~~mountain~~ to the top and could see the Pacific Ocean. ~~It's~~ really my everyone in my community have honestly haven't laughed so much for years. Even though I'm put to the test with high expectations ~~of gods~~ hard physical labor there's no place in the world I'd rather be than among these 16 people I now call my brothers and sisters in the ~~outdoor~~ Backcountry.

Mary Hunter
(McDaniel)

My Los Padres experience has been a real learning experience. It has been a bittersweet ride so far. I have learned about myself here. I have learned what Im capable of and luckily I have not learned my breaking point here. I have seen the beauty of these mountains. The same ones I curse in my head on the hikes to work. I have learned to appreciate what brings me discomfort, for without it I would not gain knowledge about myself. I have learned to wait. When the mornings are cold, wait. It will get hot. When the grade is steep, wait. It will even back out. When the sky looks clear, just wait because it could rain. The los padres was a challenge to get into and Im expecting a challenge again to get out. One thing I know for sure is there is no easy path to anywhere worth going. Los padres included. I feel lucky to have gotten to spend time and work here and Im sure the memories I have of this place will last.

Daniel Rojas
Inyo 2011, BackCountry Crew

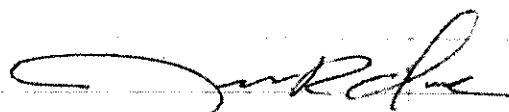
Since I've been in the Los Padres National Forest I've enjoyed myself. I have hiked many miles. I also visited the Sisquoc falls it was wonderful. There is a lot of historic value which is priceless. I would also like to thank everyone that made this possible, I would also like to thank my crew for staying ~~positive~~^{positive}, working hard, and taking initiative.

Tarea Tarlton

Tarea Tarlton INYO Crew
2011

I FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY TIME WORKING IN THE C.L.C. OUT HERE IN THE LOS PADRES. AND EVEN MORE FORTUNATE TO START OUR BACKCOUNTRY SEASON HERE! IT'S FANTASTIC TO GO FROM LOW ALMOST DESERT BRUSHING TO HIGH ALTITUDE PINE FORESTS. THE LOS PADRES' UNFORGIVING ROCKY TERRAIN, THICK DENSE BRUSH AND SOMETIMES IMPASSABLE POWERFUL RIVERS HELPS US BUILD STRONG BACKS AND A PERFECT BALANCE OF LOVE AND RESPECT FOR ITS MOUNTAINS. I STRONGLY HOPE TO FIND A CAREER HERE IN THE LOS PADRES. AND WILL CERTAINLY BE RETURNING TO IT IN MY FUTURE.

THANK YOU,



JAMES D. TURK
C.L.C. LOS PADRES

JUNE, 2011

Joe,

Hi my name is Charles
Coffman Inyo Backcountry
crew 2011. Los Padres month
has been one of the hardest
challenges in my life. Wet
boots aren't that bad anymore.
Soap is unnecessary when bathing,
every day chores have become a
routine; I've rolled rocks but
haven't done tread - it was nice
to get some hard work done.
Thanks for being apart of this
experience.

dwt Sm

P.S.

Don't drink 4 cups of coffee after
dinner with half gallon of water
the night before hiking out on
Sweet water trail.

I really enjoyed the environment -
please consider me for employment
and volunteer work in the future.

Charles Coffman

My Los Padres Experience:

My time in the Los Padres National Forest has been rewarding and insightful. The mental and physical challenge of being a trail crew member has tested my strength, patience, and endurance. The satisfaction that comes from being able to see the progress of a single hard day's work is comparable to no job I have had before. I have enjoyed the peaceful and beautiful landscape of this wilderness and feel so fortunate for the opportunity to be here. For me, the wild creates an atmosphere that allows me to reflect on myself and the world around me. I have observed and experienced the interconnectedness of the planet and hope to share this understanding with others. May we all learn to tread upon this Earth lightly and peacefully.

Colby Accadian

Los Padres / Inyo Crew 2011

My Month in the Padres. Amber Wessel

Well to start I am amazed at how beautiful mother Nature is everywhere I go. I havent visited any place created by Nature That I thought "This isn't Beautiful". I consider my self lucky to have been chosen to be on this crew in this wilderness. The trail badly needed work and together as a crew we worked hand in hand with this wilderness to build her better paths to be walked on. To allow more people to appricate and hopefully one day fight and help sustaine our amazing environment.

I have a greater peace with in that I havent felt before, sincerly happy and it overwhelms me everyday. Even during the confused weather patterns I can't help but smile. The mountains/mills that I conque each day kicks my butt not only in to shape but slowly higher's my confidence which is one area I lack in. Living as our ancestors did is something I've always dreamed of; to me this is like a painful, eye opening, muscle building, personal growth forcing, vacation, No longer (for 4 months) do I have to wake up in the concrete jungle and worrie about unnessasary things. The only thing that matters is my crew. Together we survived

a month in Los Padres with not much more than the bare necessities. We grew stronger as a crew and already made great bonds. I feel spoiled and look forward to the pain that the hike out will bring. Thank you everyone that made it possible for us to be out here.

-Amber Wessel

My Los Padres experience has been a real learning experience. It has been a bittersweet ride so far. I have learned about myself here. I have learned what I'm capable of and luckily I have not learned my breaking point here. I have seen the beauty of these mountains. The same ones I curse in my head on the hikes to work. I have learned to appreciate what brings me discomfort, for without it I would not gain knowledge about myself. I have learned to wait. When the mornings are cold, wait. It will get hot. When the grade is steep, wait. It will even back out. When the sky looks clear, just wait because it could rain. The Los Padres was a challenge to get into and I'm expecting a challenge again to get out. One thing I know for sure is there is no easy path to anywhere worth going. Los Padres included. I feel lucky to have gotten to spend time and work here and I'm sure the memories I have of this place will last.